

DOE Chief Commends PNL Cost-Cutting Efforts

RICHLAND, Wash., September 25, 1995 -- Cost-saving efforts at Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL) were held up as a model today by Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary during a press conference announcing Clinton Administration decisions on the future of federal laboratories, including those belonging to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Administration found the 10 DOE national laboratories, including PNL, "essential" to the fulfillment of key mission areas. However, Secretary O'Leary reinforced that continued laboratory reform efforts aimed at cutting costs will continue. In reference to this reform, O'Leary praised PNL's success at reducing laboratory costs through process improvement and noted that all national laboratories can benefit from what PNL has learned. In addition to PNL cost-cutting efforts already underway, O'Leary credited the laboratory as the first to "step up to the line" in response to DOE's directive to reduce costs. According to O'Leary, three other DOE laboratories now are replicating PNL's cost-cutting efforts.

For more information on O'Leary's comments today, please contact Dawn Zimmerman, PNL Public Affairs, at 375-3688.

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For more information contact:

Dawn J. Zimmerman, (509) 375-3688

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